

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-10, 14-17, and 19-25 are allowed.

Claims 26-28 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Only allowed claims 1-10, 14-17, and 19-25 remain pending in the instant application. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.


CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

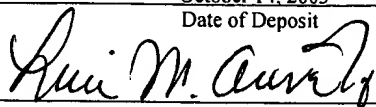
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: Oct. 14, 2003


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FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on October 14, 2003
Date of Deposit

Luci M. Arevalo
October 14, 2003
Date